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## **DCR COMMISSIONER “DISAPPOINTED” ABOUT LACK OF ACTION ON PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

*DCR Takes Initiative To Protect Public Safety*

Days after indicating that they would begin assessment and repair of the Magazine Pedestrian Footbridge over Memorial Drive, the party responsible for the damage appears to have stepped back. The footbridge is owned by the state’s Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), but it was damaged when a truck owned by the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Rail (MBCR) slammed into the bridge on May 3rd causing damage that has kept the bridge closed due to concerns about its structural integrity.

It was agreed that MBCR would review the extent of the damage of the Bridge and move to make repairs. Days later and without reasonable explanation the agreement was never acted upon. This withdrawal has resulted in a delay to the inspection and repair process. “Given they are so clearly responsible for this damage, it is disappointing that MBCR isn’t acting in a more timely way to fix the problem they caused,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington.

Within 24-hours of the decision by MBCR to delay action, DCR took immediate steps to get the bridge fully repaired as soon as possible. “Public safety should come first,” said Burrington who then ordered a full assessment of the footbridge to determine the extent of the damage and that will be followed by emergency repairs. “In the meantime we have hired crossing guards to assist students and others looking to safely cross Memorial Drive,” said Burrington.

The results of the assessment, recommended repairs, and a timetable for those repairs will be released by DCR on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. “The responsible party will ultimately pay the cost of repair in this case,” according to Burrington, “but I didn’t want to wait any longer for them to act. My main concern is for the needs of those who depend on it for safe passage over Memorial Drive,” Burrington said.